



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF  
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE

APR 19 2001

Ms. Marcia Y. Kinter  
Vice President, Government Affairs  
Screenprinting & Graphic Imaging  
Association International  
10015 Main Street  
Fairfax, Virginia 22031-3489

Dear Ms. Kinter:

Thank you for your March 13, 2001 letter to the Administrator concerning the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) efforts to develop a federal regulation governing the handling of solvent-contaminated wipes.

At this time, we are striving to complete several important analyses that will influence the regulatory approach we take in a proposed rule for the regulation of these materials. I also can assure you that these analyses will take into consideration the concerns of the printing and packaging industrial sectors that you identify in your letter to the Administrator.

As you know, Agency efforts associated with solvent-contaminated wipes were initiated as a result of petitions from various industries, and also from the users of both disposable and reusable wipes, such as the industrial sectors you represent. Both have asked for consistency in requirements that currently differ from state to state and assurances that these materials will not be subject to the full waste disposal requirements of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act's Subtitle C regulations. One of EPA's goals for this effort is to meet these requests. Another EPA goal is to ensure that solvent contaminated wipes are managed in an environmentally sound, cost-effective manner that also encourages source reduction and recycling of hazardous solvents where appropriate.

My intention continues to be to move forward with proposing a rule as quickly as possible. We appreciate your interest in this issue and trust you will assist us by reviewing and commenting on our proposed rule when it is formally published in the Federal Register.


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The Agency looks forward to continuing to work with you as we proceed with this effort.

Sincerely yours,

  
Elizabeth A. Cotsworth, Director  
Office of Solid Waste